

## Message Text

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42

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 AID-20 IGA-02 DEAE-00 JUSE-00 SNM-02

SY-04 TRSE-00 SCI-06 OMB-01 DRC-01 /139 W

----- 075380

R 081207Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8907

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VIENTIANE 3666

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, LA

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION WITH MINISTER OF JUSTICE ON  
NARCOTICS

REF: VIENTIANE 3665 (NOTAL)

1. DURING COURTESY CALL REPORTED REFTTEL, AMBASSADOR  
RAISED WITH KHAMKING SOUVANLASY, NEW MINISTER OF JUSTICE,  
QUESTION OF LACK OF ACTUAL TRIALS AND SENTENCES IN  
NARCOTICS CASES. AMBASSADOR SAID HE HAD RECENTLY  
CONGRATULATED MINISTER OF INTERIOR, PHENG PHONGSAVAN,  
ON NUMBER OF ARRESTS ON VARIOUS DRUG CHARGES, BUT HAD  
EXPRESSED SOME SURPRISE THAT NOT ONE MAJOR TRAFFICKER  
HAD YET BEEN TRIED AND ACTUALLY SENTENCED. THIS  
SITUATION CREATED AN UNFORTUNATE IMPRESSION AND  
AMBASSADOR RECALLED THAT AID LEGISLATION REQUIRED A  
FINDING THAT AID RECIPIENTS WERE DOING ALL IN THEIR  
POWER TO FULFILL INTERNATIONAL TREATIES ON DRUG EN-  
FORCEMENT.

2. KHAMKING ANSWERED VOLUBLY AND AT LENGTH. PRIME  
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MINISTER HAD FROM VERY INCEPTION OF NARCOTICS LAW (1971)

INSTRUCTED HIM AS FORMER MINISTER OF JUSTICE TO ENFORCE IT AND FOLLOW ITS IMPLEMENTATION CLOSELY. KHAMKING HAD INSTRUCTED HIS PEOPLE IN PROVINCES TO SEND HIM A REPORT AS SOON AS ANY DRUG CASE DEVELOPED. HE AFFIRMED THAT LAW WAS BEING IMPLEMENTED WITH VIGOR; THERE HAD BEEN 240 ARRESTS. BIG PROBLEM WAS POLITICAL. MEO DEPUTIES PREVAILED ON PM TO RELEASE ON OWN RECONNAISSANCE MEOS ARRESTED ON DRUG CHARGES. IT WAS DIFFICULT SITUATION; MANY MEOS HAD TRADITIONALL FORMED HABIT OF SMOKING OPIUM WITHOUT HINDRANCE. HE HIMSELF HAD SOME SYMPATHY FOR THESE CASES. ANOTHER PROBLEM IS THAT PRISONERS WHO WERE RELEASED DISAPPEARED, OFTEN BECAUSE IT WAS DIFFICULT TO LOCATE THEM.

3. KHAMKING NOTED THAT THE CRIMINAL COURTS WHICH HAVE JURISDICTION OVER DRUG CASES WERE MEETING NOW AND SEVERAL SUCH CASES WERE PENDING.  
WHITEHOUSE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DRUG CONTROL, DRUG TRAFFIC, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, ARRESTS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 08 MAY 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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